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2003-227-C

June 30, 2009

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TRACEY C. GREEN
ALAN WILSON
SPECIAL COUNSEL

*ALSO ADMITTED IN TX

VIA HAND DELIVERY

Honorable Charles L.A. Terreni
Chief Clerk / Administrator
Public Service Commission of South Carolina
Synergy Business Park
The Saluda Building
101 Executive Center Drive
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

RECEIVED
2009 JUN 30 PM 4:10
SOUTH CAROLINA
PUBLIC SERVICE
COMMISSION

RE: Annual Report of Cricket Communications, Inc.
(f/k/a Hargray Wireless, LLC) as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier

Dear Mr. Terreni:

This firm represents Cricket Communications, Inc. Enclosed please find the original and ten (10) copies of the above-referenced document.¹ Please accept these documents for filing and acknowledge your receipt of same by returning a copy of this letter to me, bearing your file-stamp, via our courier.

Please be advised that the material attached to Exhibit 1 referenced in paragraph 4(a) of this Annual Report has been marked as "Confidential Information" and is being submitted under seal in a separate envelope marked "confidential" in accordance with Commission Order No. 2005-226 issued in Docket No. 2005-83-A and dated May 6, 2005. A redacted version of this material is included as required by Order No. 2005-226. Cricket Communications, Inc. hereby requests that the material designated as "Confidential Information" and enclosed in the separate envelope marked "confidential" be exempted from public disclosure in accordance with 26 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. R.103-804.S(2)(Supp. 2008). The basis for this request is the same as that submitted to, and found to be appropriate by, the Commission in its Order No. 2006-415 in Docket No. 2003-227-C issued July 24, 2006. I have consulted with counsel for the Office of Regulatory Staff regarding this request and she has indicated that her client does not oppose same.

¹ Please note that the certification page attached to the Annual Report is not an original. The original, executed certification page will be filed at a later date. I apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

Honorable Charles L.A. Terreni
Page 2
June 30, 2009

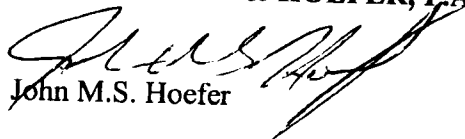
By copy of this letter, we are providing a copy this filing to the Executive Director of the Office of Regulatory Staff ("ORS"). In accordance with S.C. Code Ann. §58-4-55(C)(Supp. 2008), the "Confidential Information" referenced in the preceding paragraph is being provided to ORS under seal and designated as "confidential or proprietary" information and therefore exempt from public disclosure by that agency as well.

Based upon the foregoing documentation, Cricket Communications, Inc. submits that it is in compliance with federal and state regulations and rules and respectfully requests that the Commission so notify the Federal Communications Commission and the Universal Service Administrative Company by October 1, 2009, so that federal support for Hargray Wireless, LLC, for the upcoming fiscal year will be ensured as contemplated by Commission Regulation 103-690.1.B.

If you have any questions, or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me. With best regards, I am

Sincerely,

WILLOUGHBY & HOEFER, P.A.


John M.S. Hoefer

JMSH/
Enclosures

cc: Honorable C. Dukes Scott
Nanette S. Edwards, Esquire

***ANNUAL REPORT OF ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER
CRICKET COMMUNICATIONS, INC. FOR PERIOD ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2008***

1. **Applicability** – Hargray Wireless, LLC, was designated an eligible telecommunications carrier (“ETC”) by Public Service Commission of South Carolina (“Commission”) Order No. 2007-804, Docket No. 2003-227-C, November 14, 2007. Effective December 31, 2008, Hargray Wireless, LLC, was merged into Cricket Communications, Inc. (“Cricket”). Therefore, Cricket is making this annual report (1) pursuant to the requirement for same set out in said Order and (2) in accordance with the provisions of proposed Commission Regulation 103-690.1 (legislative Document No. 3197).

2. **Reporting Period** – This Annual Report covers the period January 1, 2008, through December 31, 2008.

3. **Service Commitment** – Cricket commits to comply with Cellular Telecommunications and Internet Association’s Consumer Code for Wireless Service as of May 18, 2008.

4. **Information required by 103-690.1.B.b**

a. Two year service quality improvement plan progress report and update

See Exhibit 1.

b. Outage information

There were no outages during the reporting period.

c. Unfulfilled service requests

There were no unfulfilled service requests from potential customers in the ETC Area approved in Order No. 2007-804 for the period January 1, 2008, through December 31, 2008. No applications for new service were held over 30 days. All commitments for service were fulfilled.

d. Trouble reports

The number of actual customer trouble reports received per one hundred handsets was “0” during the reporting period. The number of complaints or trouble reports per thousand handsets during the reporting period was “0”.

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e. CTIA consumer code certification

Cricket certifies that it is complying with Cellular Telecommunications and Internet Association's Consumer Code for Wireless Service.

f. Function in emergency situations

Cricket certifies that it is able to function in an emergency situation. A detailed report regarding Cricket's ability to address emergency situations is attached as Exhibit 2.

g. Comparable local usage plan certification

Not applicable.

h. Potential FCC equal access requirement certification

Cricket certifies that it is aware that the Federal Communications Commission may require that Cricket provide equal access to long distance carriers in the event that no other eligible telecommunications carrier is providing equal access within the Cricket ETC designated area.

i. Lifeline and Linkup customer count

As of December 31, 2008, Cricket served one Lifeline and Linkup customer. However, since that date, Cricket has added ninety-six such customers.


j. Lifeline verification or certification

The Lifeline Verification Survey or Certification filed with USAC on August 31, 2008, is attached as Exhibit 3.

[CERTIFICATION PAGE ATTACHED]

CERTIFICATION

I, the undersigned, do hereby certify that the factual information set forth herein, and in the attachments hereto, is true and accurate except as to matters stated upon information and belief and, as to same, I believe them to be true and accurate.



LAURIE ITRKIN

Name

Director, Government Affairs

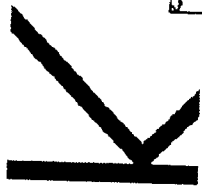
Title

June 30, 2009

Date

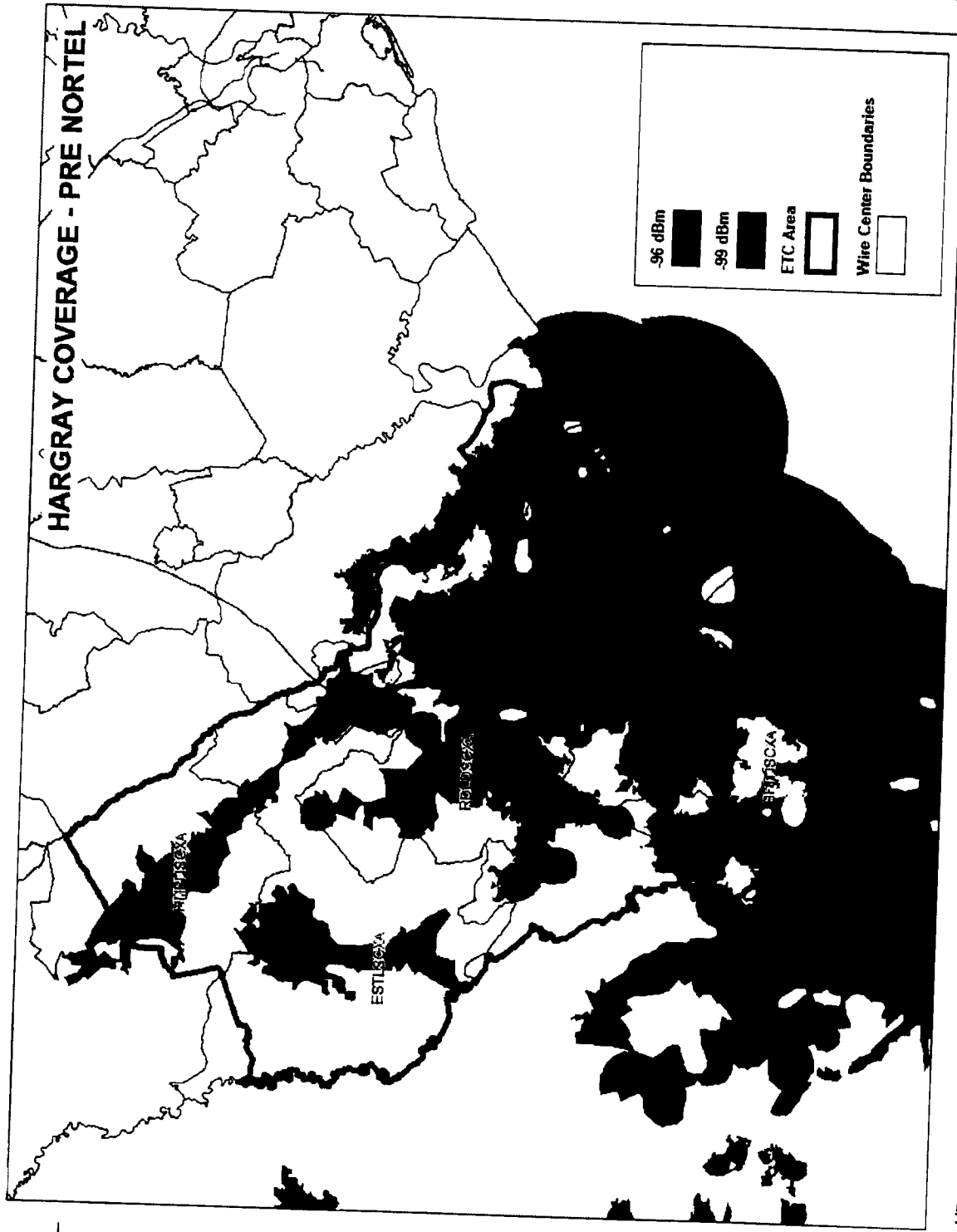
EXHIBIT 1

From its April 1, 2007, acquisition of Hargray Wireless, LLC, Cricket Communications, Inc. has devoted significant resources to modifications to the original system to provide for a more efficient method of expanding coverage in the ETC designated area. Since the last re-certification filing in August of 2008, Cricket has added a new cell site, which was brought on line in October of 2008. In addition, all seventy-two of the older model Lucent base stations have been replaced with new, up to date Nortel base stations which provide more output and traffic power and more up to date power control. Included with these base stations are also 15 Lucent "microcells" consisting of limited power, "daisy-chained" non-directional antennas and switch upgrades. Ten of the cell sites had sectors added to provide new coverage or improve existing coverage and all of the previously existing sites had maintenance repairs and system optimizations changes performed to address coverage issues or improve coverage. Forty-five sites have Tower Mounted Amplifiers ("TMAs") as well as associated Bias-T equipment and Protocol Data Units ("PDUs") used to control and supply power to TMAs and antennas. This equipment was replaced at twenty out of forty-five sites due to weather or environmentally related damage. The benefit of these investments, and specifically the conversion to the Nortel base stations, with respect to coverage is depicted on the maps included herewith as Attachment "1-A". Cricket estimates that it has increased the percentage of population ("POPs") covered in the ETC designated area from 89% to 91% as a result of these investments. Further, and as also shown in Attachment "1-A", for the twelve month period that ended March, 2009, the incidence of dropped calls has decreased in the ETC designated area from 1.4% to less than 0.8% and the incidence of ineffective call attempts in the ETC designated area has decreased from approximately 0.9% to less than 0.6%. Further, all sites have been upgraded to the evolution data optimized (EVDO) standard to provide for launching of a new broadband product. Additionally, significant investment has been made to upgrade the switch serving the ETC designated area. Cricket has expended more investment dollars in the foregoing effort than the \$1,551,323 received from USAC in high cost support. Details of the investments described above are set forth on Attachment "1-B" hereto, for which Cricket seeks confidential treatment. Cricket's projected two-year service quality improvement plan contemplates the addition of four new cell sites on new towers which will increase coverage of POPs to 92.9% in the ETC designated area. Specifics of the investment required to implement this plan are also set forth on Attachment "1-B". Specifics of the planned cell site additions and enhancements to coverage are depicted on the maps included as Attachment "1-C", for which Cricket also seeks confidential treatment.

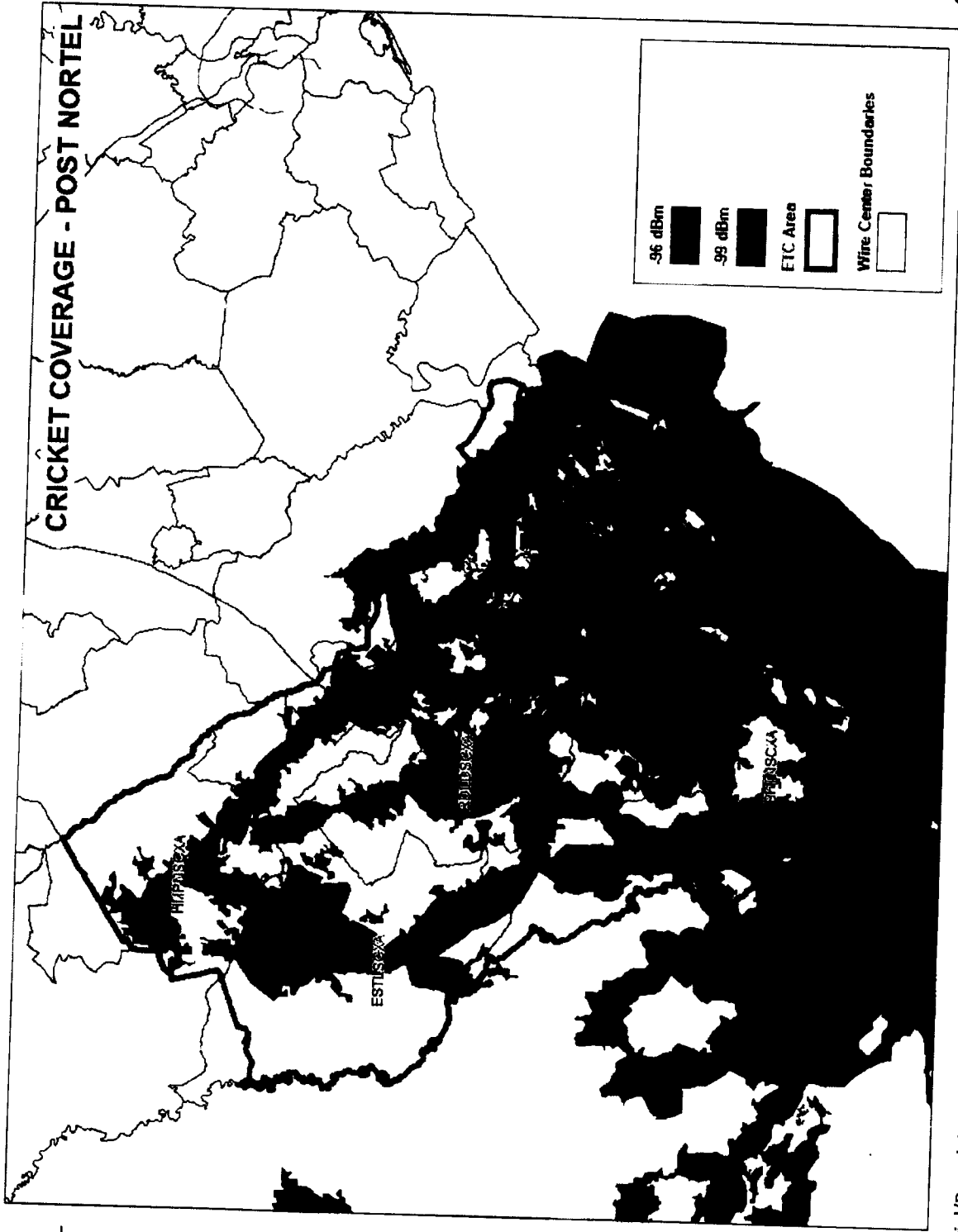


Pre-Cricket Coverage

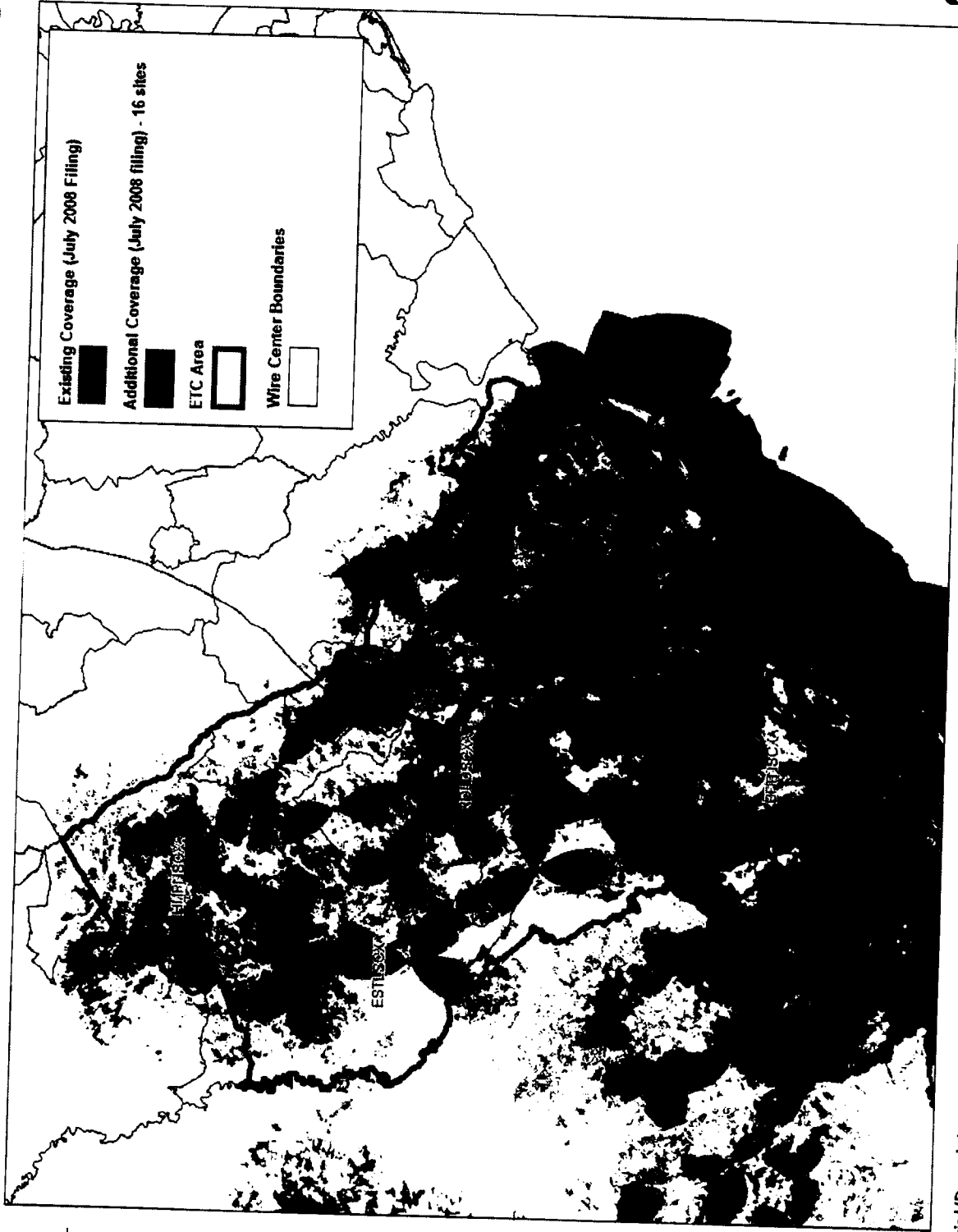
Attachment 1-A
Page 1 of 5



Post-Cricket Coverage

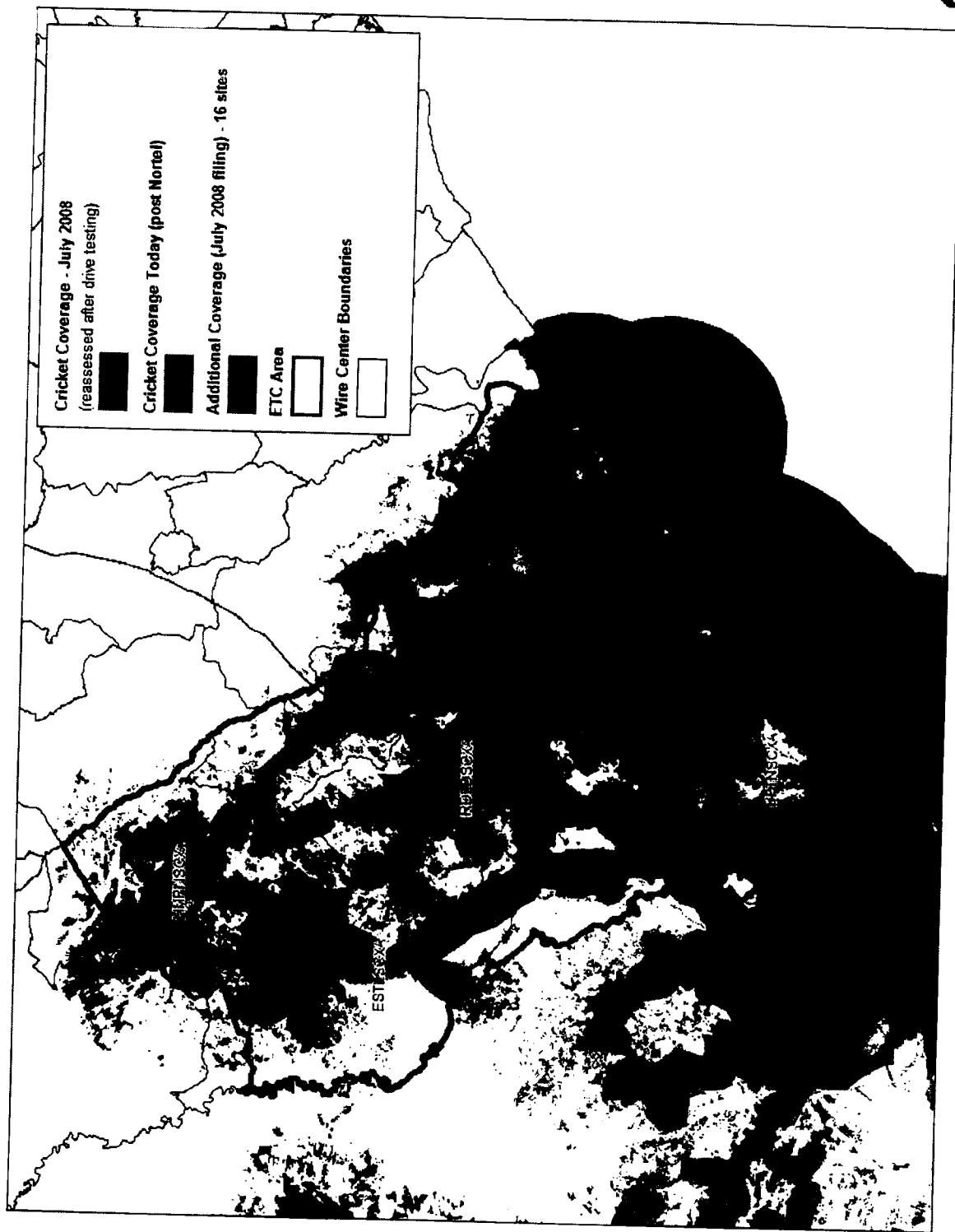


Coverage per SC PSC Filing (July 2008)



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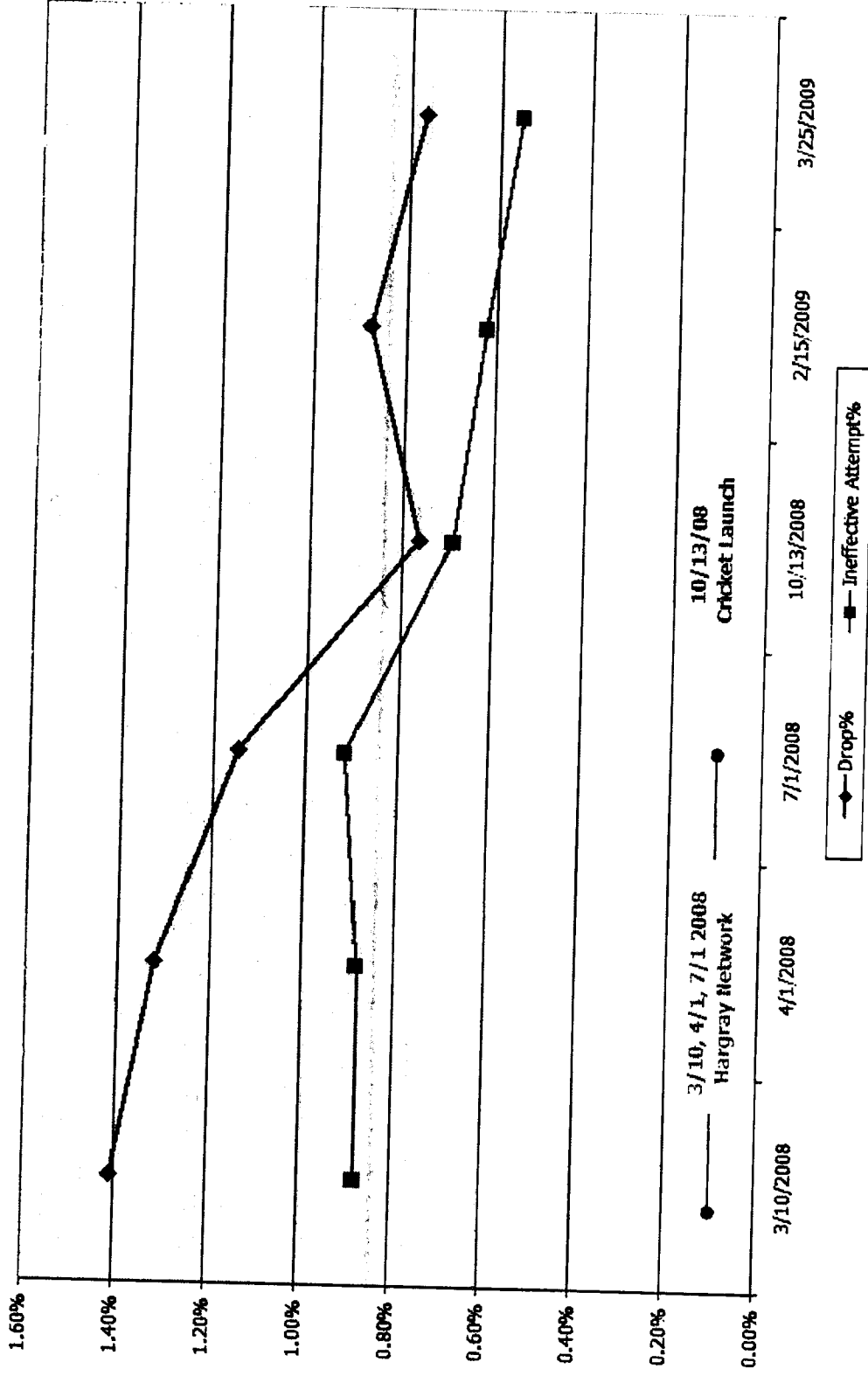
Coverage as of March 2009



cricket

Pre/Post Statistics - Voice

Pre/Post Voice Statistics



CONFIDENTIAL

ATTACHMENT "1-B" TO EXHIBIT 1

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CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

EXHIBIT 2

All mobile switching centers and cell sites have battery backup power. Also, each switching center has a dedicated diesel generator and there are several cell site generators in the market area. In instances of power outages, priority is set based upon traffic, cell site location and time of day. In certain parts of the service area, a cell on wheels (COW) can be deployed. In case of a total switch outage, a mobile command center may be established by each switch vendor.

Approved by OMB
3060-0819

Annual Lifeline Certification & Verification

Complete Section 1, 2, or 3. Then complete the chart below.

1. ☒ Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (ETC) serving **Federal Default State** (complete columns A through E and sign below)

I certify that the company listed below has procedures in place to verify the continued eligibility of a statistically valid random sample of its Lifeline customers. Results are provided in the chart below. I certify that the company listed below, has procedures in place to review income documentation and that, to the best of my knowledge, the company was presented with documentation of the consumer's household income. I am an officer of the company named below. I am authorized to make this certification for the Study Area(s) listed below.

OR

2. ☐ Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (ETC) serving **Non-Federal Default State** (complete columns A through C and sign below; complete columns D and E if required by your state commission)

I certify that the company listed below is in compliance with the Lifeline and Link Up verification procedures in place in the state(s) listed below. If any Lifeline customers of the company listed below qualify based on income, I certify that the company listed below is in compliance with state Lifeline income certification procedures and that, to the best of my knowledge, documentation of income was presented. I am an officer of the company named below. I am authorized to make this certification for the Study Area(s) listed below.

OR

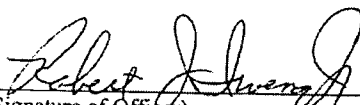
3. ☐ I certify that my company has not claimed federal Low Income support for any Lifeline customers in _____ (insert current year).

A	B	C	D	E
Company Name	SAC (6 digit number)	State	Customers Surveyed or Verified	Customers Found to be Ineligible*
Hargray Wireless, LLC	249001	SC	1	0
			Note: Hargray Wireless has only one Lifeline Customer	

* Include customers who did not respond to the survey in the ineligible column.

Signed,

July 2008 Edition


(Signature of Officer)

(Printed Name of Officer)

Robert J. Irving, Jr.

(Title of Officer)

Senior Vice President and General Counsel

(Person Completing this Sample Letter)

Laurie Itkin

858-882-6226

(Contact Phone Number)

Fax to: (202) 776-0080
E-mail to: LiVerifications@usac.org
Mail to: Low Income Program
2000 L Street, NW, Suite 200
Washington, DC 20036

Approved by OMB
3060-0819

10307 Pacific Center Court

San Diego, CA 92121

(Company Address)

August 21, 2008

(Date)

Submit to USAC using only **ONE** method:

Deadline: August 31st

NOTICE: To implement Section 254 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, the Federal Communications Commission has adopted changes to the federal low-income programs. The Commission has expanded the availability of these programs and the level of funding for discounts to low-income customers.

The following worksheet provides a means by which eligible telecommunications carriers may provide their annual Lifeline verification survey results and annual low-income certifications to the Universal Service Administrative Company.

We have estimated that each response to this collection of information will take, on average, four (4) hours for each respondent. Our estimate includes the time to read this data request, review existing records, gather and maintain required data, and complete and review the response. If you have any comments on this estimate, or on how we can improve the collection and reduce the burden it causes you, please write the Federal Communications Commission, AMD-PERM, Washington, D.C. 20554, Paperwork Reduction Project (3060-0819). We will also accept your comments on the burden estimate via the internet if you send them to PRA@fcc.gov. Please DO NOT SEND the data requested to this e-mail address.

Remember – You are not required to respond to a collection of information sponsored by the Federal government, and the government may not conduct or sponsor this collection, unless it has been approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and displays a currently valid OMB Control Number. This collection has been assigned OMB Control Number: 3060-0819.

The FCC is authorized under the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, to collect the information we request in this form.

The foregoing Notice is required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Pub. L. No. 104-13, 44 U.S.C. Section 3501, *et seq.*